

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 10, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 23, and 24 have been amended. No claims have been added or cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-26 are present for examination.

The amendments to the claims made by this Response are not being made for the purpose of patentably distinguishing the claimed invention over the prior art. Instead, these amendments are being made to clarify the claimed inventive subject matter. None of the amendments made by this Response add new subject matter, and all of the amendments made by this Response are fully supported by the originally filed application.

Oath/Declaration

The Examiner has indicated a defect in the oath/declaration. Applicants respectfully submit that the newly executed Oath/Declaration submitted by this Response cures the defect indicated by the Examiner.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection

Anderson et al. in view of Wit

Claims 1-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,598,123) in view of Wit (U.S. Patent No. 5,623,627).

Applicants respectfully submit that Applicants' claimed invention is patentable over Anderson in view of Wit because neither Anderson, nor Wit, nor their combination, discloses, teaches, or suggests "determining whether the state is an ambiguous state" that is "in response to a request from a second node to access the cache line", as required in, for example, amended claim 1. Each of the other currently pending independent claims recite limitations that are similar to these limitations of amended claim 1, although some differences may exist among the limitations of the other pending independent claims. These similar limitations nevertheless patentably distinguish the claims over Anderson in view of Wit.

The Examiner has cited Wit for disclosing the limitation "determining whether the state is an ambiguous state" that is "in response to a request from a second node to access the cache line". However, Applicants do not find anywhere in Wit where an ambiguous state is determined "in response to a request from a second node to access the cache line".

This distinction between the claimed invention and Wit's arrangement is significant, and results in advantages that are not achieved by Wit's

arrangements. For example, this limitation enables a node to modify contents while in an Exclusive state without the need to notify other nodes of such modification until such other nodes request contents of the cache line (i.e., snoop). This limitation also enables the monitoring of content modification activity at a node to be limited to such time as when another node requests such content. See, for example, Specification, page 14, at line 5-9.

Neither Anderson, nor Wit, nor their combination, discloses this limitation, and neither provides the advantages that can be achieved by this limitation. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-26 as being obvious over Anderson in view of Wit be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as amended are in condition for allowance. Therefore, allowance at an early date is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to initiate an interview with the undersigned by calling 949-498-0601 if the Examiner believes that such an interview will advance prosecution of this application.

Request for an Extension of Time

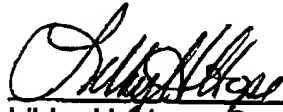
Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0221 to cover any necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.

Charge our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 50-0221.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 31, 2003



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